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Message Text

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16
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 SP-03

H-03 DODE-00 A-01 ABF-01 DRC-01 /151 W
---------- 099937
R 210230Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4821
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.OA 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PK
SUBJ: NARCOTICS: USG-GOP NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REFS: A) ISLAMABAD 2364 B) ISLAMABAD 4103 C) ISLAMABAD 4718

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN MAY 15 MEETING WITH MISSION REPS, NARCOTICS BOARD CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI LAMENTED DELAYS IN OBTAINING ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS LAW AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS MIGHT DAMAGE FIU PROGRAM. DCM VOICED CONCERN OVER DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING MAPS FOR AERIAL SURVEY AND OVER DELAYS WITHIN NWFP GOVERNMENT IN COMPLETING SWABI TEHSIL BASE-LINE SURVEY. QRAKZAI PROMISED TO LOOK INTO SURVEY QUESTION AND SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING SETTLED AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RELATED TO POPPY DUIMINATION COULD MOVE AHEAD, IF USG DID NOT PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE DEADLINES FOR POPPY ERADICATION. DCM SAID MISSION PREPARED TO LOOK AT VARIOUS APPROACHES AND ASKED ORAKZAI'S ADVICE ON HOW USG MIGHT OTHERWISE BE HELPFUL TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM, USAID ACTING DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
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COUNSELOR AND ECONOFF MET WITH PNCB CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI

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AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ON MAY 15 TO REVIEW STATUS OF
USG-GOP NARCOTICS COOPERATION. DCM STATED EMBASSY HAD
HEARD THAT PNCB WAS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAIN-
ING ITS BUDGET DEMANDS FOR FY-75. ORAKZAI SAID ONE
SECTION OF FINANCE MINISTRY BELIEVES PAKISTAN CANNOT
AFFORD TO SPEND LARGE AMOUNTS ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.
HE STATED BUDGET REDUCTIONS COULD BE MADE IF THEY SIMPLY
ELIMINATED CERTAIN OFFICER POSITONS ON PNCB STAFF, BUT
HE FEARED FIU PROGRAM MIGHT BE SEVERELY CUT.

3. FEDERAL NARCOTICS LAW. DCM NOTED THAT PNCB HAD
PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS
LAW WOULD BE PASSED DURING FIRST HALF OF 1974. ORAKZAI
SAID THESE HOPES HAD DISAPPEARED WHEN PLANNING SECRETARY
JAFAREY HAD INSISTED ON CIRCULARIZING DRAFT BILL TO PRO-
VINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR COMMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCURRENT
CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS. NWFP GOVERN-
MENT HAS NOT YET GIVEN ITS REACTION. WHEN DCM ASKED
WHETHER NWFP MIGHTDELAY ITS RESPONSE INDEFINITELY,
ORAKZAI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PROVINCIAL RESPONSE
WOULD EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING, PROBABLY SUGGESTING
CERTAIN AMENDMENTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE
NARCOTICS PROGRAM WAS ENCOUNTERING ROUGH SLEDDING IN
NWFP. REFERRING TO RECENT PUBLIC CRITICISM OF PNCB BY
MNA GHULAM FAROOQ (ISLAMABAD 3331), ORAKZAI SAID HTAT
WHEN SUCH A PROMINENT FIGURE CRITICIZES PNCB "WE ARE IN
REAL TROUBLE WITH THE PUBLIC." ORAKZAI SAID SOME IN
NWFP WERE SAYING THAT PNCB OPERATIONS WERE BEING
PROMOTED AND FINANCED BY USG WITH SUGGESTION THAT PNCB
OPERATIONS ARE PRIMARILY FOR BENEFIT USG, NOT PAKISTAN.
HE DID NOT CONTEST DCM COMMENT THAT OUTLOOK FOR EARLY
PASSAGE OF NARCOTICS LAW DID NOT APPEAR BRIGHT.

4. AERIAL SURVEY. DCM STATED THAT DESPITE GLOBAL
LICIT OPIUM SHORTAGE AND UNCERTAINTY REGARDING TURKISH
POPPY BAN USG INTEREST IN CONTROL OF POPPY PRODUCTION
IN PAKISTAN HAS NOT DIMINISHED IN SLIGHTEST. USG SENT
OVER DEA EXPERT SHELDON TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF
POPPY AERIAL SURVEY, BUT PROJECT WAS BEING DELAYED BY
GOP FAILURE TO SUPPLY MAPS WHICH WERE REQUIRED TO FINALIZE
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HIS REPORT. ORAKZAI SAID EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO
SECURE RELEASE OF MAPS, BUT CLAIMED SHELDON SHOULD HAVE
ACCUMULATED ENOUGH DATA DURING HIS VISIT TO FINALIZE HIS
REPORT. ECONOFF POINTED OUT TO ORAKZAI THAT DURING
MEETINGS WITH SHELDON ESSENTIALITY OF MAPS TO FURTHER
PROGRESS ON AERIAL SURVEY PROJECT HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY
STRESSED. ORAKZAI SAID UN HAD ALREADYCOMPLETED AERIAL
SURVEY OF BUNER AREA WITHOUT SUCH MAPS. DCM QUESTIONED

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WHETHER UN SURVEY USING AS IT DID BLACK AND WHITE AND SOME COLOR FILM HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN IDENTIFYING POPPY AREAS, AND ORAKZAI ADMITTED HE HAD NOT SEEN PRINTS. DCM SAID EMBASSY, WHICH IS PURSUING MATTER WITH MFA, IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS IN GETTING MAPS RELEASED.

5. SWABI TEHSIL SURVEY. MISSION REPS ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF LONG-PROMISED SURVEY OF SWABI TEHSIL. ORAKZAI SAID DEVELOPMENT PLANNING HAD GOTTEN HUNG UP ON USG INSISTENCE THAT GOP PROVIDE TIMETABLE FOR POPPY BAN. MISSION REPS REJOINED THAT PLANNING SECRETARY JAFAREY HAD INFORMED MISSION IN JANUARY THAT FINANCE MINISTER HAD INSISTED THAT SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS BE COMPLETED BEFORE GOP COULD COME UP WITH FEASIBLE TIMETABLE FOR ELIMINATION OF POPPY IN SETTLED AREAS, AND THAT JARAREY HAD PREDICTED THAT SWABI TEHSIL SURVEY WOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID-APRIL. WE NOTED THAT AT LAST REPORT NWFP DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CLAIMED TO HAVE VIRTUALLY COMPLETED SURVEY EXCEPT FOR FEW REMAINING "GAPS." ECONOFF SAID MISSION WAS NOT LOOKING FOR ELABORATE PLANS BUT SURVEY SIMILAR TO THAT PREPARED FOR UN TEAM. ORAKZAI INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO LOOK INTO STATUS OF SURVEY. HE SAID THAT WHEN SURVEY IS COMPLETED, IF USG WOULD NOT PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE DEADLINES FOR POPPY BAN, NEGOTIATIONS COULD MOVE AHEAD. DCM STATED THAT MISSION WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE PILOT PROJECT IN SWABI TEHSIL ALONG LINES OF PROPOSED UN PROGRAM IN BUNER.

6. AS MEETING CLOSED WE COMMENDED AS COURAGEIOUS STEP PNCB'S INITIATIVE IN BRINGING ABOUT UNPRECEDENTED ARRESTS OF ILLEGAL POPPY CULTIVATORS THIS SPRING. DCM REITERATED, HOWEVER, MISSION CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO AERIAL AND SWABI TEHSIL SURVEY AND ENACTMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAW. RECOGNIZING THAT PNCB WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED, HE SAID THAT ORAKZAI'S ADVICE ON HOW USG MIGHT BE HELPFUL WOULD BE WELCOME. DCM POINTED OUT THAT GOP SEEMED WELL AWARE OF POLITICAL RISKS INVOLVED IN CONTROLLING POPPY, BUT APPEARED RELUCTANT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM FOR OVERCOMING THESE RISKS.

7. COMMMENT. ORAKZAI SEEMED RATHER SUBDUED AND LACKED HIS USUAL TENACITY IN DEBATE. PUBLIC CRITICISM IN NWFP, CONSTANT BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING, AND EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN HIS BUDGET APPEAR TO HAVE DISCOURAGED HIM SOMEWHAT. WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AERIAL SURVEY MAPS AND COMPLETION OF SWABI TEHSIL SURVEY WITH OTHER RELEVANT GOP OFFICES HERE AND INTEND TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH ORAKZAI WHAT SUPPORT WE CAN GIVE HIM IN OBTAINING SUFFICIENT BUDGETARY

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ALLOCATIONS AND IN PUSHING NARCOTICS LAW THROUGH
BUREAUCRACY.
LUPPI

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